

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the term “generally flat” would not be understandable to one of ordinary skill in the art when referring to the surfaces of a liquid crystal display panel. This assertion is erroneous. The term is perfectly clear to one skilled in the art, and there is no substantive difference between the term “generally flat surfaces” and the alternative, “flat surfaces,” which the Examiner asserts to be understandable. Accordingly, in the interests of expediting prosecution, Applicants have removed the term “generally” from the phrases in question. Those skilled in the art will recognize that there is no substantive difference between the original claim language and this amended language. Applicants further note that this rejection is particularly inappropriate in light of the fact that the flatness of the display surfaces is not material to the patentability of the claims.

Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima (U.S. 5,654,735), and claims 7 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima. Because both of these rejections are simply repetitions of the rejections from the previous Office Action (Paper No. 12222004), Applicants maintain and incorporate herein those arguments previously advanced in Response J, filed April 28, 2005, and in Supplemental Amendment K, filed June 17, 2005, and again traverse this rejection for at least the reasons of record. Applicants further traverse the rejection as follows, in reply to the Examiner’s “Response to Arguments” provided on pages 10-12 of the outstanding Office Action.

The Examiner's continued assertion that the claims of the present invention do not incorporate the argued subject matter is simply without merit. Applicants are at a loss to understand the Examiner's unwillingness or inability to give the claim terms at issue their clearly recited meaning. Reciting something in the short form as being "simultaneously sent to and from X from and to Y respectively" is grammatically identical to reciting these same features in the longer form as being "simultaneously sent to X from Y and from X to Y." This issue is about plain English language usage only, and does not require any skill in a particular field of art to understand.

In the hopes of expediting prosecution therefore, Applicants have rewritten the cited limitations, which appear in each of the independent claims, in their respective long forms. There is no substantive or grammatical difference between these amended claims and the claims as they were last amended. The claim phrases at issue have been amended to the long form purely to avoid the Examiner's repeated incorrect and unreasonable interpretation of these claims.

For example, the Examiner's stated interpretation (page 12 of the outstanding Office Action) of the cited language to mean "the display signal simultaneously being supplied from and written to the plurality of signal lines, and the display signals simultaneously being supplied to and from the data bus lines respectively" is an unreasonable rewriting of the language. The Examiner's asserted interpretation only requires that display signals are sent to and from the signal lines and data bus lines in general, but not necessarily to and from each other, as is clearly recited. Furthermore, the Examiner's use of the word

“respectively” in this case renders the term meaningless. Things that are listed “respectively” must be in some particular order, by definition. The Examiner’s interpretation, however, includes no such order to the elements.

The Examiner’s additional statement therefore, of what “Applicants seem to wish to mean,” does not even correctly characterize the previous arguments that have been put forth in clear and unambiguous terms. Applicants have never argued in favor of “the display signals simultaneously being supplied from the signal lines to the data bus lines, and the display signals simultaneously being supplied from the data bus lines to the signal lines.”

The Examiner’s erroneous change to the placement of the word “simultaneously” significantly changes the meaning of the claims. According to the Examiner’s new language, the display signals only need to be simultaneously supplied to either the signal lines together, or the data lines together, but not simultaneously supplied to both from the other, as clearly recited. The “simultaneous” term that is actually recited in the claims does not apply merely to the video signals by themselves at their respective destination only, but instead to the two-way transmission between the signal lines and the data bus lines. One skilled in the art would clearly understand this meaning of these terms when they are read in light of the present Specification.

The Examiner’s further broad assertion (last three lines of page 11) that “the claims incorporate different enough language that one skilled in the art would understand the invention in another fashion all together” is therefore also without merit. The Examiner does not explain any “difference” he believes to exist between the claims in this regard. The only

actual differences between the limitations listed by the Examiner (first full paragraph on page 11) are: (1) whether the display signals “*are* simultaneously supplied,” or whether they are “*being* simultaneously supplied;” and (2) whether the signal lines are listed as a “plurality of signal lines” (claims 1 and 16), as “groups of signal lines” (claim 14), or just as “signal lines” (claim 15). None of these minor differences justify the Examiner’s continued unreasonable interpretation of the claim language. There is no substantive difference between signals that “are supplied” or signals “*being supplied*.” Furthermore, the substance of the simultaneous two-way transmission of display signals between the signal lines and the data bus lines does not substantively change either depending on whether the signal lines are listed as “a plurality,” as “groups,” or just as “signal lines.” The Nakajima reference in particular does not teach or suggest such distinctions.

As previously argued, the Examiner’s reliance on Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 1-42 of Nakajima fails to establish support a *prima facie* case of either anticipation or obviousness against the present invention. The Examiner’s main assertion, that “Nakajima clearly discloses display signals [Fig. 1; VIDEO] simultaneously being supplied...from and written to the plurality of signal lines” is irrelevant to the claims of the present invention. Fig. 1 clearly shows that the VIDEO signal, which is supplied to the signal lines, does not come from the data bus lines. The Examiner has not cited to anywhere within the Nakajima reference that actually teaches or suggests the simultaneous exchange of display signals between the signal lines and the data bus lines.

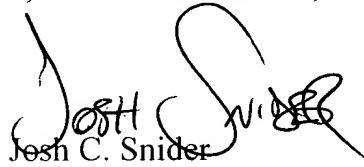
Col. 4 of Nakajima does not teach or suggest these features either. The only “simultaneous” events described by Nakajima in this cited portion are the *simultaneous sampling* of the video signals SIG1, SIG2, SIG3 (col. 4, lines 22-23, 30-31), and not any two-way supply/writing of signals between the signal lines and the data bus lines. Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner consider the limitations of the independent claims of the present invention according to their clearly recited meaning, in light of the Specification to the present Application, and withdraw the outstanding Section 102 and 103 rejections of all of the pending claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants again submit that this Application, including claims 1-21, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would help expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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